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DDR-162-82

COM-4

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Executive Director

SUBJECT: CIA Science Advisory Committee

1. Reference is made to the desire of the DCI to form a new Science Advisory Committee. The committee would be composed of leaders in their fields but, more importantly, ones with imagination and a willingness to actually give time to various Agency problems. This committee would therefore be in contrast to the present CIA Research Board, which has evolved into a non-participating role. Recently the board has had a series of briefings on the Agency's R&D program as well as on substantive intelligence. However, they have never been asked, and show little inclination, to tackle specific problems. In fact, their varied interests would effectively prevent them from effective action. They have not been particularly productive as a board, though several individuals, through their companies, have provided help to the Agency, especially TSD. While the present board is chartered to consider all Agency problems, it has in fact considered only those of TSD and was supported from that office.

2. It seems desirable to form a board composed of about ten members selected from different specific fields. These would constitute the general board. It is desirable to appoint members to the board for a specific term, such as three years, so that continued rotation of individuals can be effected. Experience indicates that breaking the board into panels on specific problems is very desirable as a modus operandi. These panels would be empowered to employ specialists as consultants who are not on the regular board. However, most panels should consist of at least two board members. Past experience indicates the desirability of separating the physical sciences from the life sciences; i.e., biology, psychology, medicine, etc. It is believed the board should be composed of members from the physical sciences and

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that a standing major sub-panel of the board should be formed to tackle the Agency's problems in the life sciences. I believe it possible to find an individual who would be competent to be on the main board and also would be competent to head the life sciences panel.

3. The ability to get useful results from a board of this nature is directly proportional to the amount of technical effort invested by the organization they advise. This effort must take the form, primarily, of very capable scientific staff support. Scientists of this calibre will respect only the best we have to offer in the way of technical talent as their associates on our various problems. Much staff work will be required in the form of briefings and analysis, as well as probably supplying the executive secretary for each panel. Also, the continued enthusiasm of such scientists depends to a large extent on the acceptance of their various recommendations. We must be prepared to accept some which may be difficult to implement. Also, these people will not wish to be told that there are security barriers involved and this will mean giving them a considerable number of security clearances. Where we ask them to take on problems involving the DD/P, this will present a problem in getting the operational flavor across as well as the scientific aspects.

4. Turning now to some specific individuals who might be considered. The problem of a chairman is all-important, as he probably should be consulted in the selection of the board members as well as being necessary to induce them to join. He should have stature enough to be able to get commitments for work from the board members as well as to guide the board generally. It is probably not desirable to include any present members of the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities. I am preparing a list of candidates for the board and will be glad to discuss these and the board activities with you.

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